

services, community work and outreach, and physical, emotional and spiritual renewal. Through a variety of programs, the Mission provides services to not just the homeless, but to the addicted, at-risk youth, gang members, and criminal offenders. The Mission accomplishes this important work with the strong support of and partnerships with foundations, associations, businesses, churches, other social services, and local governments in the District, in Virginia and Maryland.

The Mission's work to the poor never seems to end. In fact, the problems of homelessness, addiction and other related problems continue to increase. The demand for programs offered by the Central Union Mission is more vital now than ever because of the severe economic crisis which hits hardest those who are most vulnerable.

Today, in Washington, D.C., there are more than 12,000 men, women, and children who are living in shelters, transitional housing, or on the streets.

Madam Speaker, the Central Union Mission is on the front lines working to meet the needs of those who are in need of its services. Last year alone, the Central Union Mission provided 152,275 meals to the hungry, more than 50,000 men with shelter through residential programs, and 4,408 individuals received counseling, medical, and legal assistance. Nearly 1,000 individuals were given the tools for a self-sufficient life through long-term addictions counseling and literacy programs.

The impact doesn't stop there. Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. This past year, the Mission provided nearly 5,000 families with clothing, food, and household goods; more than 3,000 children were given backpacks, supplies for school, and gifts around Christmas time; and hundreds of impoverished urban children were treated to a real summer camp experience at the Mission's Camp Bennett location in Maryland.

The demand for services provided by the Central Union Mission continues to grow. The Central Union Mission is regularly forced to turn away people who are hungry, hurting, and in need of vital services because of regularly operating to capacity. As we enter the winter months, the Mission becomes an even more critical safety net for thousands of individuals and families who seek out the warmth and shelter it provides.

The assistance the Central Union Mission has provided since 1884 is best told through the stories those whose lives have been transformed. One such person, "Timothy," says about the Mission:

For nine years I had been struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. Going in and out of jails and institutions, wandering, hopelessly waiting for my life to end or a miracle to happen. At some point, I decided I didn't want to live anymore. My wife and children had been gone from my life, and my life was in shambles. I decided, during a deep depression, that I was going to take my own life. Then, the miracle happened.

I walked to the Central Union Mission, which was only 4 blocks away. When I arrived I was embraced by men who were concerned for me. I came into their STP program with barely any hope. But several days into it, I started to feel better. I realized that I have certain responsibilities, and that life is really what you make it. Somehow, I made it through the Mission's program and my life has really turned around.

Today, my wife and children know me, they're proud to say they have a changed husband and daddy. My relationship with my family has been restored, my sanity has been given back, and I look forward to a better future. All thanks to the Central Union Mission.

"Reginald" had a similar experience:

I entered Central Union Mission depressed, tired of life, and sick. I needed help.

I was at the Mission for almost two weeks, which allowed me time to recuperate, think, and spend time with other men who were just like me, when my mind began to clear. I started to focus on the important things in my life—my faith, family and getting better.

The Mission is just what it says it is—a mission, a place that's there for the people who are in need, and so they can get better. Just watching all these people bring in donated things to help people they don't even know amazed me. Watching men and women who have very little, like me, enjoy working on the food depot, seniors day, birthday celebrations, back to school, and things like that, makes it seem more like a family here. Basically, they really care. It helps me to realize how important I really am.

I thank God for David Treadwell and his staff. They are wonderful at what they do for people in need. The time they put into helping us is from the heart and that's what God wants from all of us—the best of what's in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me in congratulating the Central Union Mission and expressing our gratitude for the vital work the Mission is doing here in Washington, D.C. I encourage all Members to visit the Mission, which is just a short drive from this chamber to witness first-hand the power of compassionate service that has helped the Mission transform so many thousands of lives of the least, the last, and the lost for 125 years.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill provides much-needed improvements to the current legal structure governing the transmission of satellite signals to American consumers. We've come a long way since the days where satellite companies were fledgling businesses with small customer bases and large backyard dishes. Now this industry is robust and competitive and holds its own in the world of multi-video providers.

With this increased popularity comes an increased responsibility to those who subscribe to satellite services. I sponsored an amendment to the bill that was adopted in the Energy and Commerce Committee which underscores the importance of the rights of satellite customers.

My language will finally end DISH Network's discrimination against noncommercial High Definition signals. Many of you know these noncommercial stations as educational and Public Broadcast Stations. DISH has roughly 14 million subscribers and they all deserve ac-

cess to Public Television's signals. DISH had been providing preferential treatment to high-paying networks for the transmission of programming, but denying equal carriage for a television service supported by tax dollars. DISH gets privileges under this bill and with those privileges comes the obligation to serve the public interest.

The premise of my language is simple.

It requires satellite carriers to provide their customers with local noncommercial HDTV transmissions when carrying other local broadcast HD signals.

It provides for carriage compliance for 50 percent of the stations by the end of 2010, with an extra year for the remainder, thus accelerating the FCC 2013 date.

It ensures that when new service is initiated, noncommercial stations get equal treatment.

And, it gives carriers one last opportunity to sign a carriage contract because anyone who has one, has a safe harbor from the language here.

Most importantly, this language locks the door and rips off the knob—it not only accelerates the carriage date, it precludes potential waivers of that date extending well into the future.

It's important to note that Direct TV offers HD channels of 106 local public television stations in their local markets. DISH is carrying HD in local commercial broadcasts in 152 markets covering 93 percent of U.S. households. But they only carry local public television HD broadcasts in Alaska and Hawaii—where they are legally obligated to do so.

Consumers in all states have the right to view publicly funded programming. My preference would have been that some time during the past three years of negotiations with PBS, DISH would have decided to serve the public interest and provide equal treatment for noncommercial stations. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. There's been adequate notice of a serious problem, but no action. I encourage DISH to continue negotiating with PBS to reach a viable compromise on this issue before this measure passes the Senate as well. Otherwise, there will be no additional flexibility—and DISH will be legally obligated to carry those HD signals.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I look forward to final passage of the Satellite bill, and especially the anti-discriminatory section which is part of it.

HONORING THE PENNEY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate the Penney High School girls' cross country team for winning their sixth Missouri Class 1 state championship in a row. Runners Erin Esry, Makayla Moon, Lindsey Vollmer, Bethany Jakopic, Brooke Flook, Saige Dilley, and Kathleen Clevenger along with managers Ashley Cramer, Olivia Allen and Coach Mark Vollmer all deserve many congratulations for their enormous success. Over the years, Coach Vollmer and his runners have displayed the hard work, determination, and class that is indicative of six-time champions.